KIDDERMINSTER RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Annual Reports

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND

SANITARY INSPECTOR

FOR

1955

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KIDDERMINSTER

RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR

1955

KIDDERMINSTER RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

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Medical Officer of Health :
R.W. MARKHAM, M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector and Housing Officer :
R. S. PORTER, Cert.S.I.J.B., C.R.San.I.
(Cert. Meat and Foods Inspector)

Assistant : C. G. KNOTT

Assistant Housing Officer and Public Health Clerk :
Miss J. E. MANTLE

Rats and Mice Destruction Officer : E. M. HOWELL

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

To the Chairman and Members of the

KIDDERMINSTER RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my REPORT for the year 1955.

SECTION A.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area in acres	36,790
Registrar-General's estimate of the resident population mid 1955	11,900
Number of inhabited houses at the end of 1955	3,674
Rateable Value	£71,201
Sum represented by a penny rate	£283

Social Conditions.

In the main the inhabitants of the district are engaged in agricultural and kindred work, though a certain proportion are employed in industry in Kidderminster, and a number of males are employed at an Iron Works in the district.

Vital Statistics.

Births.		Males	Females	1955 Total	1954 Total
(*a*) Live Births :	Legitimate ...	95	81	176	162
	Illegitimate ...	2	2	4	7
Birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated population				15·1	13·9
Birth rate for England and Wales				15·0	15·2

		Males	Females	Total	Total
(b) Still Births :	Legitimate ...	3	0	3	3
	Illegitimate ...	0	1	1	0

Deaths.	Males	Females	Total	Total
(*a*) No. registered for District ...	56	56	112	116
Crude death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population			9·4	9·5
Death rate for England and Wales			11·7	11·3
(*b*) Deaths from Cancer (all ages)			18	18
Deaths for Measles (all ages)			0	0
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) ...			1	0
(*c*) Maternal Mortality			0	0
(*d*) Infant Mortality (under 1 year of age) ...			3	7
Death rate of Infants under 1 year of age :				
All Infants per 1,000 live births			16·6	41·1
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births			17·04	43·2
Infant Mortality Rate for England and Wales per 1,000 live births			24·9	25·5

Cause of Death.		M.	F.
1.	Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	–	–
2.	Other forms of Tuberculosis	–	–
3.	Syphilitic Diseases	–	–
4.	Diphtheria	–	–
5.	Whooping Cough	–	1
6.	Meningococcal Infections	–	–
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	–	–
8.	Measles	–	–
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	–	–
10.	Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	1	4
11.	„ „ Lung, Bronchus	4	1
12.	„ „ Breast	–	2
13.	„ „ Uterus	–	1
14.	Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms ...	2	3
15.	Leukæmia, Aleukæmia	–	1
16.	Diabetes	–	1
17.	Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	8	9
18.	Coronary Disease Angina	7	2
19.	Hypertension with Heart Disease	–	1
20.	Other Heart Disease	9	16
21.	Other Circulatory Disease	2	1
22.	Influenza	–	–
23.	Pneumonia	1	1
24.	Bronchitis	6	3
25.	Other diseases of Respiratory System	–	–
26.	Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	1	–
27.	Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	1	1
28.	Nephritis and Nephrosis	1	–
29.	Hyperplasia of Prostate	–	–
30.	Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	–	–
31.	Congenital Malformations	–	1
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	3	5
33.	Motor Vehicle Accidents	5	1
34.	All other accidents	2	1
35.	Suicide	3	–
36.	Homicide and Operations of War	–	–
	All causes	56	56

SECTION B.

General Provision of Health Services in the Area.

Staff.

I have the assistance and co-operation of the Sanitary Inspector, Mr. R. S. Porter, who holds the Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute as Inspector of Meat and other Foods, and of Miss J. E. Mantle as Public Health Clerk.

Laboratory Facilities.

The Worcestershire County Council Laboratories are available for the chemical examination of water, milk and foodstuffs, and the work is carried out by the County Analyst.

All clinical bacteriology is carried out by the Public Health Laboratory, situated at Worcester Royal Infirmary.

Ambulance Facilities.

For Infectious Diseases an ambulance is provided by the Regional Hospital Board, and operates from Hayley Green Hospital.

For other cases an ambulance service is provided by the County Council, and operates from Kidderminster.

Nursing at Home.

There are four District Nurses in the area, who also practise as Midwives and act as Health Visitors. Two other District Nurses also deal with portions of the Area.

Infant Welfare Centres.

There are five Infant Welfare Centres in the Area — at Far Forest, Wolverley, Cookley, Chaddesley Corbett, and Blakedown, where Immunisation and Vaccination is carried out.

The Welfare Centre at Wribbenhall is also used by residents of the Area.

Hospitals.

The Kidderminster and District General Hospital is available for all residents in our Area.

For Infectious Diseases the Isolation Hospital at Hayley Green is available.

Tuberculosis.

This work is the responsibility of the Regional Hospital Board, who arrange sanatorium treatment where possible. Dispensaries are held every Tuesday at 6-30 p.m., Wednesday at 10 a.m., and Thursday at 2 p.m. at the Kidderminster General Hospital, where Dr. R. Cronin attends.

The County Council are responsible for after-care and this work is administered locally by the After-Care Sub-Committee of the Divisional Area Committee.

Venereal Disease.

The Regional Hospital Board arrange for treatment and follow-up of these cases at the Kidderminster General Hospital.

SECTION C.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

Water.

The Council own approximately 80 miles of water pipes, and the water in the Rural District is supplied by :

(1) The Council's Borehole at Cookley.
(2) The City of Birmingham Elan Aqueduct.
(3) The Stourbridge Water Board.
(4) The East Worcestershire Water Board.
(5) The South Staffordshire Waterworks Company.
(6) Kidderminster Corporation.

The supply is satisfactory both in regard to quality and quantity.

The Sanitary Inspector submitted 33 samples of water from the six main sources for chemical and bacteriological examination. All the samples were satisfactory.

WATER SUPPLIES TO HOUSES IN THE RURAL DISTRICT

Parish	From Public Mains				From Private Supplies, e.g., Wells, Springs, etc.	
	Direct to Houses		By Means of Standpipe			
	No. of Dwelling Houses	Population	No. of Dwelling Houses	Population	No. of Dwelling Houses	Population
Wolverley	985	3,447	199	629	53	169
Upper Arley	109	381	119	380	107	341
Ribbesford	6	19	—	—	18	57
Churchill and Blakedown	343	1,115	—	—	28	89
Rock	430	1,505	158	505	110	350
Broome	47	150	—	—	22	70
Stone	75	241	—	—	53	160
Rushock	24	84	—	—	28	98
Kidderminster Foreign	84	270	207	662	77	246
Chaddesley Corbett ...	390	1,360	67	214	68	213
Totals	2,493	8,572	750	2,390	564	1,793

The above figures are approximate. Included in the 750 houses supplied from standpipes are several areas of bungalow development, a " squatters " camp, and camping sites.

Drainage and Sewerage.

Work has progressed satisfactorily with the connection of houses to the new sewers in Wolverley and Cookley. By the end of the year 590 properties had been dealt with leaving 108 still to be connected.

This scheme has brought about such obvious improvement in the sanitary conditions of the area that it emphasises the importance of proceeding with the Chaddesley Corbett scheme at the earliest possible date.

In areas likely to remain unsewered further progress has been made in conversion to water carriage to efficient private disposal plants.

SUMMARY OF SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

Parish	Houses connected to a Public Sewer	Population Served	No. of Houses with		
			Pails	Cess Pits, etc.	Private Installations
Wolverley ...	860	3,010	60	69	45
Upper Arley ...	29	100	102	152	44
Ribbesford ...	—	—	12	12	12
Churchill and Blakedown ...	221	699	32	59	80
Rock	32	102	174	401	270
Broome ...	—	—	10	15	54
Stone	12	38	60	73	42
Rushock ...	4	14	30	30	10
Kidderminster Foreign ...	16	51	211	90	77
Chaddesley Corbett ...	102	357	115	242	193
Totals ...	1,276	4,371	806	1,143	827

All shacks, etc., have been included as dwellings. Few of them have drainage arrangements.

River Pollution.

There is little change to report in the condition of the River Stour which runs through the District. The Severn River Board have done excellent work in their investigation of sources of pollution and it is hoped that they will be equally successful in preventing the ingress of these harmful effluents.

The Stour, in common with many other rivers throughout the country, shows increasing evidence of the household use of detergents. At the various weirs on its course through the district foam is permanently evident and at times reaches a height of 5 to 6 feet.

HOUSING.

STATISTICS.

1.—Inspection of dwelling houses during the year.

(1)	(*a*)	Total number of dwellings inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ...	471
	(*b*)	Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	512
(2)	(*a*)	Number of dwelling houses included under sub-head (1) above which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidation Regulations, 1925 & 1932	267
	(*b*)	Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	278
(3)		Number of dwelling houses found not to be in all respects fit for human habitation	163

2.—Remedy of Defects during the year without the Service of Formal Notices :

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers 56

3.—Action under Statutory Powers during the year :

A.—Proceedings under Section 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	1
(2)	Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of Formal Notices :	
	(*a*) By Owners	1
	(*b*) By Local Authority in default of Owners ...	Nil

B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	Nil
(2)	Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of Formal Notices :	
	(*a*) By Owners	Nil
	(*b*) By Local Authority in default of Owners ...	Nil

C.—Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	10
(2)	Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	2

D.—Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	Nil
(2)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or rooms having been made fit	Nil

4.—Housing Act, 1936. Part IV.—Overcrowding.

The steady improvement in the position with regard to overcrowding in the Area continues.

Prevalence of and Control over Infectious and Other Diseases.

Immunisations against Diphtheria.

Despite our efforts many children remain un-immunised at least until school age and parents must be made to realise the serious risk of the return of diphtheria as a killing disease if they do not take advantage of the protection provided.

A further 91 children under five years and 29 children from five to 14 years of age were given primary courses of treatment and 98 were given booster doses.

No cases of diphtheria were notified.

Notifications.

The notifiable infectious diseases (other than Tuberculosis) which occurred during the year 1955 are set out in the following table.

Disease	AGE IN YEARS							Total No. of Cases	No. of Cases Admitted to Hospital	No. of Deaths
	0–	1–	3–	5–	10–	15–	25 and over			
Scarlet Fever ...	–	–	1	6	2	1	–	10	2	–
Measles	2	40	49	121	6	–	5	223	1	–
Whooping Cough	3	5	6	12	1	–	–	27	1	1
Pneumonia ...	–	–	1	1	3	1	9	15	1	2
Dysentery ...	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	1	–	–
Food Poisoning ...	–	–	–	2	–	–	2	4	–	–
Totals	5	45	57	142	13	2	16	280	5	3

Tuberculosis.

Eleven cases were notified during the year.

Age Periods	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
1—	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
5—	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	–
15—	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
25—	1	3	–	–	–	–	–	–
35—	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
45—	2	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
55—	2	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
65 and upwards	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	1
Totals ...	6	3	1	1	–	–	–	1

It was not necessary to take any action under the Public Health Act (Prevention of Tuberculosis Regulations) 1925, or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

Conclusion.

The existing sanitary services in the area have proved satisfactory.

The Council are to be congratulated on the work that has been carried out in this sphere with obvious benefit to the inhabitants of the District. They have proved most willing to consider any schemes or suggested improvements made by the Health Department and have taken action whenever their powers or authority permitted.

I should like to thank the Chairman and Members of the Council and all Officials for their help and co-operation during the year.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

R. W. MARKHAM,

Medical Officer of Health.

KIDDERMINSTER

RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Sanitary Inspector

FOR

1955

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

SANITARY INSPECTOR.

To the Chairman and Members of the

KIDDERMINSTER RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Gentlemen,

I have much pleasure in submitting my Annual Report on the Sanitary Administration within the Rural District for the year ended 31st December, 1955.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE AND DISINFECTION.

Number of visits made to premises re cases of infectious disease and disinfection : 32.

Disinfection of premises and articles which have been exposed to infection is carried out where necessary by means of disinfectant and formaldehyde lamps.

MEAT, MILK AND OTHER FOODS.

Meat.

Four slaughterhouses have been in use during the year.

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	Cattle exclud'g Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	242	2	37	1,092	575
Number inspected	296	2	30	820	501
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS : Whole carcases condemned ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	2
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	43	Nil	Nil	26	15
Percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	145	Nil	Nil	3·1	3·0
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY : Whole carcases condemned ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	6	Nil	Nil	Nil	12
Percentage of number inspected affected with Tuberculosis ...	3·7	Nil	Nil	Nil	2·3

Meat and Edible Offals Condemned.

Moribund and badly bled	202 lbs.
Distomatosis	130 lbs.
Pneumonia	41 lbs.
Tuberculosis	201 lbs.
Injury	86 lbs.
Total	860 lbs.

Milk.

The year has given the opportunity to observe the working of the Special Designation (Specified Areas) Order, 1954.

The Order has resulted in the disappearance of some small retailers and has made the supervision of milk supplies so much easier.

Close contact has been maintained with all milk distributors in the area and no infringement of the Regulations have been met with.

Other Foods.

The following details show the position with regard to food premises :

Type	No.	Registered Section 14 F. & D. Act	Inspections
General Provisions	46	–	47
Cafes	13	–	31
Hotels and other licensed premises	31	–	77
Works Canteens	1	–	4
Dairies	21	–	75
Mobile Canteens	3	–	19
Ice Cream Manufacturers	1	1	14
Ice Cream Retailers	27	27	56

Inspections have revealed that there is a high standard of cleanliness throughout the district. Tradesmen have responded readily to any suggestion put forward. In particular owners of Licensed Premises have brought about considerable improvements with regard to drainage, washing facilities and all matters of hygiene.

As the district attracts large holiday crowds a close watch was kept on mobile canteens and the arrangements for refreshments at various race meetings, agricultural shows, etc., and little was found of which to complain.

A continuous campaign of personal contact with traders and staffs on all matters relating to clean food was maintained.

Ice Cream.

Having only one small manufacturer of ice cream, the vast majority of ice-cream sold in the district comes from large concerns in other areas. This ice-cream is almost invariably supplied to the customer in cartons or wrappings.

It has not been necessary to draw attention to any infringements during the year.

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT, 1933.

Number of unexpired licences in force 25

BAKEHOUSES.

Number on register, December, 1955 8
Inspections 34

Contraventions Remedied :

Limewashing 6
Dirty Floors ... ... Nil

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

Refuse Collection and Disposal.

This service is carried out by three lorries. One S.D. Freighter with a crew of three, one Morris Commercial with a crew of three and a Contractor's lorry manned by the Contractor and his son.

The S.D. Freighter covers the parishes of Wolverley, Cookley, Churchill and Blakedown and Broome and gives a fortnightly service to these built up areas. The Morris Commercial deals with the parishes of Chaddesley Corbett, Stone and Rushock and gives a fortnightly service. The parishes of Rock, Upper Arley, Kidderminster Foreign and Ribbesford are dealt with by the Contractor.

An ever present problem is the provision of adequate land for tipping.

The following are the details of the number of loads dealt with :

Tipped at Wolverley	1,046 loads
Tipped at Lodgeford Hill	437 „
Tipped at Trimpley	206 „
Tipped at Rock	261 „
	1,950 loads

All these tips are regularly sprayed with D.D.T. and other insecticides and little nuisance has arisen from flies, crickets, etc.

Night Soil Collection.

A weekly collection of night soil is made from Chaddesley Corbett Village. The work is done by a local contractor, who uses a motor lorry provided with suitable bins for the carriage of the night soil. No complaints have been received with regard to the manner in which this work is done.

The Council's proposed Sewerage Scheme for the village will render this service unnecessary, but as a temporary measure the system is as efficient as possible.

Number of pail closets emptied per week : 87.

Cesspools.

Nuisances from overflowing cesspools have again been dealt with by the use of a hired cesspool emptying vehicle. 103 cesspools have been emptied at the owner's expense.

WATER SUPPLY.

General.

Number of samples submitted for analysis	64
Number of samples found to be unfit or unsuitable ...	16
Number of samples found to be fit	48

Council's Borehole, Cookley.

Number of samples submitted for chemical examination	6
Number of samples submitted for bacteriological examination	8
Number of samples found to be chemically of good quality and fit for drinking	6
Number of samples found to be bacteriologically of good quality and fit for drinking	8

The water from the Borehole shows little variation in physical character and chemical composition.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA, 1955.

Particulars of Visits and Inspections are as follows :

Bakehouses	34
Caravans and Moveable Dwellings	119
Dairies	75
Fried Fish Premises	11
Infectious Disease	32
Overcrowding	252
Premises where animals are kept	94
Schools	9
Water Courses	51
Water Supply	306
Workshops	2
Provision of Dustbins	52
Miscellaneous	777
Refuse Collection	1,792

SANITARY WORK.

Interior of Houses.

Dirty houses improved and cleansed by tenants	2
Verminous houses dealt with	0

Yards and Outbuildings.

Dirty yards and W.C's cleansed by tenants	19
Offensive accumulations removed from yards, etc. ...	206

Drainage.

Drains opened and cleansed from obstruction	179
Defective drains repaired	51
New drains provided	167
Glazed stoneware gullies provided	203
Inspection chambers provided to drains	321
Overflowing cesspools cleansed and repaired	103
Inspection chambers repaired and provided with new air-tight covers	6
Glazed sinks provided	37
Cesspools abolished	101

Water Closets.

New Water Closets erected	98
Foul and obstructed W.C's cleansed	96
New W.C. cisterns provided, others repaired	200
Water Closets repaired	57
Defective water supply to W.C's remedied (burst water pipes, defective ball valves, etc.)	76
Conversions :	
Conversions of privies to W.C's	2
Conversions of pail closets to W.C's	77

Privies and Pail Closets.

New pans provided to pail closets	29

Ashpits and Dustbins.

Houses provided with new sanitary dustbins	56
Insanitary conditions of dustbins cleansed by tenants ...	21
Ashpits abolished	2

Various.

Nuisances from improper keeping of animals	16
Accumulations of manure and refuse removed	176

RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION ACT, 1919.

Infestation Order, 1943.

Appended herewith is a summary of the work carried out during the year.

Number of infestations dealt with at private houses ...	109
Number of infestations dealt with on business premises	3
Number of other infestations dealt with	7
Number of complaints received	27

Sewers.

Acting on the instructions of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, the sewers at Blakedown and Wolverley were test baited during the year with satisfactory results.

Worcestershire Agricultural Executive Committee.

The co-operation between this Committee and ourselves has been excellent, and our thanks are due to all concerned.

Worcestershire Planning and Advisory Committee.

I am pleased to be able to report that this Committee has done very useful work during the year.

HOUSING.

The housing record of the Council has always been excellent and during the year a further 22 houses were erected, making a total of 562 since the war.

A further 64 houses are in course of erection and these houses will provide accommodation for families who at present occupy houses, which are subject to Demolition Orders.

Work still progresses in the re-conditioning of cottages, and the Grant Scheme has been of great assistance, 26 applications receiving favourable consideration.

PETROLEUM ACTS.

Your Sanitary Inspector also undertakes the duties of Petroleum Inspector, and the following figures are of interest :

Number of Premises licensed for Storage :

Private	5
Business Premises	49
For Re-sale	11
Total	65

Total fees received ... ... £38 7s. 6d.

It was not necessary to draw the attention of any Licencee to any serious infringements of the Acts.

In conclusion, Gentlemen, may I express my thanks for the interest and support given by the whole of the Council during the year.

I would also express my appreciation of the willing co-operation which I have received from the Clerk, Mr. J. H. Swann, the Surveyor, Mr. A. S. Northover, the Rating Officer, Miss I. M. Mountford, and the whole of the Council's staff.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

R. S. PORTER,

Sanitary Inspector.